

Attachment 4.11(c)(3)

Order of Selection

While it is the intent of the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) to provide comprehensive vocational rehabilitation services to all eligible individuals who apply for services, often vocational rehabilitation services cannot be provided to all eligible applicants due to financial limitations. Therefore, MDRS has adopted an Order of Selection which establishes a system of criteria for prioritizing individuals with disabilities to receive services. The Order of Selection allows for individuals with most significant disabilities to receive services before all other individuals with disabilities.

The Order of Selection system does not preclude the provision of counseling, guidance, referral services (including to Workforce Investment Network Job Centers for training and placement), and coordination of comparable benefits and services paid by a third party, although an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) would not be developed for these services. The Order of Selection system in no way restricts the provision of diagnostic and evaluation services for the purpose of determining eligibility and assignment to a priority category under the Order of Selection with each person placed on a waiting list to be served in the chronological order he or she applied. The Order of Selection does not discriminate against any eligible individual on the basis of gender, age, race, creed, color, religion, national origin, citizenship, type of disability, duration of residence in Mississippi, public assistance status, source of referral, expected employment outcome, need for specific services, anticipated cost of services required, or income level of an individual or his/her family.

The Order of Selection is as follows:

Priority 1. Individuals with the most significant disabilities.

An individual with a most significant disability means an individual:

who has a severe physical or mental impairment which seriously limits two or more functional capacities (such as mobility, communication, self-care, self-direction, interpersonal skills, work tolerance, or work skills) in terms of an employment outcome; whose vocational rehabilitation can be expected to require multiple vocational rehabilitation services over an extended period of time; and, who has one or more physical or mental disabilities resulting from amputation, arthritis, autism, blindness, burn injury, cancer, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, deafness, head injury, heart disease, hemiplegia, hemophilia, respiratory or pulmonary dysfunction, mental retardation, mental illness, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, musculoskeletal disorders, neurological disorders (including stroke and epilepsy), paraplegia, quadriplegia and other spinal cord conditions, sickle-cell anemia, specific learning disabilities, end-stage renal disease, or another disability or combination of disabilities determined on the basis of an assessment for determining eligibility and vocational rehabilitation needs

(comprehensive assessment) to cause comparable substantial functional limitation.

Priority 2. Individuals with significant disabilities.

An individual with a significant disability meets all the requirements for Priority 1 applicants, except that they have a severe physical or mental impairment which seriously limits only one functional capacity.

Priority 3. Individuals with disabilities who do not meet the definitions of either "individuals with the most significant disabilities" or "individuals with significant disabilities", but will require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment.

The estimated number for service and outcome goals by Order of Selection priority categories for Federal Fiscal Year 2014, ending September 30, 2014, is listed below:

	Service	Employment
Priority 1	8,646	1,368
Priority 2	9,048	1,960
Priority 3	2,413	1,231
Total	20,107	4,559

MDRS estimates that the total funds available for 2014 will be \$57,794,000. This number divided by the estimated number served (20,107) yields \$2,874 available for the average case served.

The average cost per case served by MDRS for FFY 2012 was \$3,152. For MDRS to serve all estimated 20,107 clients at an average cost of \$3,152 it would cost \$63,377,264. Thus, a shortfall of \$5,583,264 is expected.

Therefore, it is estimated that MDRS will not have enough funds to serve all eligible clients and MDRS will request permission to implement an order of selection.

The Order of Selection will be implemented by the MDRS leadership when examination of funding levels and a review of clients served projections indicate that there are not sufficient funds to provide services to all eligible applicants. The MDRS leadership in consultation with the State Rehabilitation Council will then close Priority Category 3, which includes individuals with disabilities who do not meet the definitions of either "individuals with most significant disabilities" or "individuals with significant disabilities" but require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment. Any individual currently under an

approved IPE at the time Priority Category 3 is closed will continue with his or her plan of services. No new Priority Category 3 cases will be authorized until the category is reopened. Priority Categories 1 and 2 would remain available for new cases meeting the respective definitions. Individuals on the deferred waiting list will be notified of the priority categories and the process for classification or reclassification and their right to appeal the classification they were assigned.

This attachment was developed after a review of the results of the Statewide Assessment of Rehabilitation Needs. Any pertinent findings from the Statewide Assessment were incorporated into this attachment. Additionally, members of the State Rehabilitation Council were involved in the development of this attachment.